

FACT SHEET

July 2006

IMPORTANT DATES:

AUGUST 31, 2006 - In order to be considered in the *first selection phase applications must be received by August 31, 2006.

SEPTEMBER 8, 2006 – First selection of Foster Care to 21 participants.

CONTACT:

For more information about this program contact your DSHS Children's Administration Social Worker.

** If there is still space available after the first selection, we will have a second selection phase.*

Foster Care to 21

What is the Foster Care to 21 Program?

"Foster Care to 21" is a new program that allows up to 50 youth in foster care to stay in foster care or group care after they turn 18 so that they can go to a college or vocational program.

This means, if you are accepted into the program, you will continue to get foster care placement, medical coverage and agreed upon support services while you go to college or a vocational program up to the age of 21. (*Your social worker can help you explore ways to pay for the college or vocational program*).

If you are turning 18, graduating from high school or completing your GED and are interested in applying for the Foster Care to 21 program, you can continue to get foster care through September 30, 2006, until Children's Administration decides who is accepted into the program. Once your application is received, you will be notified within a few weeks if you have been selected to be in the program.

Am I eligible to apply for the Foster Care to 21 program?

You are eligible to apply for the Foster Care to 21 program if you graduated from high school or received a GED certificate any time in the year 2006 and have you have been accepted, or are waiting to hear if you have been accepted, into college or a vocational program.

Not all youth who apply will be accepted into the program because it is limited to only 50 youth per year for the whole state.

How do I apply for Foster Care to 21?

To apply for the Foster Care to 21 program talk to your DSHS Children's Administration social worker. Your social worker will help verify if you are eligible, give you an application to fill out and extend your foster care until September 30, 2006, until it is decided if you are accepted into the program.

After you talk with your social worker and fill out your application, you must mail the application to:

Rick Butt, ILS Program Manager
Children's Administration Headquarters
PO Box 45710
1115 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98504-5710

Once I apply – what are the next steps?

Once Children's Administration receives your application, we will contact you and your social worker by mail and tell you if you are accepted into the program.